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X-MEN UNLIMITED



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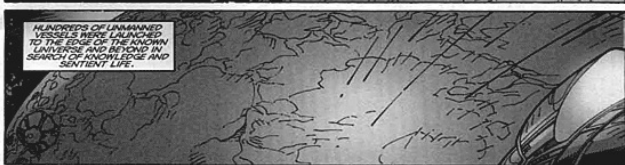


TO SOME IT IS
CONSIDERED THE
FINAL FRONTIER--



--THE LAST UNEXPLORED
THRESHOLD LEFT FOR
MANKIND TO SEEK TO
CLAIM AS ITS OWN.

AFTER THE MILLENNIUM,
MAN'S INTEREST IN THE
STARS INTENSIFIED.



HUNDREDS OF UNMANNED
VESSELS WERE LAUNCHED
TO THE EDGE OF THE KNOWN
UNIVERSE AND BEYOND IN
SEARCH OF KNOWLEDGE AND
SENTIENT LIFE.



BUT FOR ALL OF MAN'S VANITY
AND ARROGANCE THERE WAS
ONE SITUATION THAT MAN
FAILED TO ANTICIPATE--



--SENTIENT LIFE
FINDING MAN.

THEY ARE
THE X-MEN--

--BEING BORN WITH
REMARKABLE ABILITIES
AND POWERS BEYOND
THAT OF NORMAL MAN--

--MUTANTS WHO DARE TO
DREAM OF A DAY WHEN
MAN AND MUTANTKIND
CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.

STORM

PHOENIX

HOLVERINE

DAY of JUDGEMENT

JOE PRUITT/BRETT BOOTH
STORYTELLERS

SAL REGA/RICK KETCHUM/SCOTT KOBLISH
PANELS

MATT HICKS/JESSICA RUTNER
COLORISTS

SHARPTON & PT
LETTERS

JASON LIEBIG
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CUB



THEY WERE BORN MUTANTS -- POSSESSING POWERS OF A GENETIC ORIGIN
WHICH MADE THEM OUTCASTS OF SOCIETY... BUT ONE MAN... PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER
BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER TO LEARN TO USE THEIR UNIQUE GIFTS IN THE SERVICE
OF A WORLD THAT HATES AND FEARS THEM. STAN LEE PRESENTS!

X-MEN UNLIMITED

ROGUE

ICEMAN

CABLE

SYPHON

THEY FIGHT WITH THE KNOWLEDGE
THAT IF THEY FAIL TO HALT THE
SHYAR ARMADA HERE UPON THE
EARTH'S MOON--

HERE UPON THE MOON'S SURFACE--
IN AN ENIGMATIC ARENA KNOWN ONLY
AS THE BLUE AREA--THESE PERSECUTED
HEROES UNEXPECTEDLY ACT AS THE FIRST
LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST EARTH'S WOULD
BE CONQUERORS--THE SHYAR EMPIRE.

--THE EARTH WILL SOON
COLLAPSE BENEATH THE ALIEN
ONSLAUGHT TO FOLLOW.

BUT THEY ARE
THE X-MEN--

--AND FAILURE IS
NOT AN OPTION.



DUKE!
WATCH YOUR
BACK! THE SHIAR
GROUND TROOPS ARE
COMING UP ALONG
YOUR RIGHT
FLANK!

I SEE
THEM, CABLE.
I'M NOT EXACTLY
A NOVICE AT
COMBAT, YOU
KNOW?

IF I HAD
A UNIFORM TO
PIN THEM ON,
I'D SHOW
YOU THE THREE
PURPLE HEARTS
I'VE ALREADY
EARNED.

MAYBE
IF YOU WATCHED
YOUR RIGHT FLANK
A LITTLE BETTER,
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
OBTAINED
THOSE MEDALS
IN THE FIRST
PLACE.



OUCH!
THAT'S HITTING
WAY BELOW
THE BELT,
CABLE.

OKAY,
BACK TO THE
MATTER AT HAND.
FIRST A TWENTY
FOOT WALL OF ICE TO
SLOW THESE SHI'AR
TROOPS TO A
CRAWL...



--THEN
AH GET THE
CHANCE TO
PLAY THE BULL
IN THE CHINA
SHOP.



NICE
SHOT, ROGUE.
I SET 'EM
UP AND YOU
KNOCK 'EM
DOWN.



STORM,
HOSTILES AT NINE
O'CLOCK.

The main panel of the comic page shows Jean Grey, with her long, wavy hair and a determined expression, wearing a dark, form-fitting costume with a wide sash. She is lunging forward, her right arm extended. To her right, Storm is also in a similar dark costume, with her hair pulled back and a headband. She is in a dynamic pose, with one leg forward and arms outstretched. The background is dark and filled with jagged, crystalline structures and bright, radiating lines of energy, suggesting a high-stakes battle environment.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.
NORMALLY THEIR
THOUGHTS WOULD HAVE
HIT ME LIKE A HERD OF
RAMPRISING ELEPHANTS
LONG BEFORE THEY
GOT NEAR ENOUGH TO
FIRE A SHOT. BUT THEY
SEEM TO BE MENTALLY
SHIELDED FROM MY
TELEPATHY.

I AM NOT
SURPRISED, JEAN. THE
SHI'AR AND THE X-MEN SHARE A
LONG HISTORY TOGETHER-- AS
ALLIES AND AS ADVERSARIES. OUR
ABILITIES ARE NO MORE A MYSTERY
TO THEM THAN THEY ARE TO
OURSELVES.



A close-up panel of Storm's face. She has a stern, focused expression. Her dark hair is pulled back, and she is wearing a headband with a circular emblem. The background is dark and indistinct.

DEATH TO
THE ENEMIES OF
OUR LORD!



A panel showing Captain America in a battle scene. He is wearing his iconic star-spangled uniform and helmet. He is in a dynamic pose, with one leg forward and arms outstretched. The background is dark and filled with jagged, crystalline structures and bright, radiating lines of energy, suggesting a high-stakes battle environment.

CAPTAIN! AN
UNKNOWN ASSAILANT
ATTACKS US FROM
BEHIND!



A panel showing Jean Grey in a battle scene. She is wearing her dark, form-fitting costume and is in a dynamic pose, with one leg forward and arms outstretched. The background is dark and filled with jagged, crystalline structures and bright, radiating lines of energy, suggesting a high-stakes battle environment.

I MAY NOT
HAVE BEEN AROUND
THE LAST TIME YOU
CLASHED WITH THE
X-MEN--





THEY DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS MUCH LIKE THEIR BILLOU NAMED--THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE--HERALDING THE END OF ALL FOLK UNWORTHY TO SURVIVE.

DEATHBIRD, AKA WAR, EMPRESS OF THE SHIYAR EMPIRE WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF HER HATED SISTER, LILANDRA.

AAH, AKA FAMINE, A MAN SO CORRUPTED BY HATE THAT HE WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIS SOUL TO FURTHER HIS DERRANGED PASSION.

ERIC THE RED, AKA DEATH, A SHIYAR ASSASSIN WHOSE AMBITION FOR POWER IS ONLY SURPASSED BY HIS HATRED OF THE X-MEN.

FORWARD, HORSEMEN!

FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF OUR MASTER, DESTROY THE X-MEN!

GAMBAL, AKA PESTILENCE, A FORMER INNOCENT WHO WITNESSED HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY MASSACRED AND WHOSE THIRST FOR REVENGE LED HIM INTO THE CLUTCHES OF A MADMAN.

THE TRAITOR TO THE MASTER BELONGS TO DEATH!

KNOW THIS, LITTLE MAN--YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE GRANTED A RAPID DEATH, BUT YOURS WILL BE PROLONGED AND SAVORED AS A DELICACY.

IF YER WHAT PASSES FOR DEATH NOWADAYS, THE PICKIN'S MUST BE GETTIN' PRETTY SLIM.



YOU
X-MEN HAVE
ALWAYS BEEN NAIVE
AND FOOLISH. YOU
HAVE AS MUCH CHANCE
OF WALKING ON
THE SURFACE OF THE
SUN AS YOU DO IN
WINNING THIS
WAR.

SURRENDER
NOW AND I
PROMISE YOU THE
SAME SWIFT, MERCIFUL
DEATH I MOMENT-
TARILY WILL AWARD
YOUR FALLEN
COMRADE.

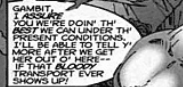
I
THINK NOT.
YOU ARE THE NAIVE
ONE IF YOU BELIEVE
THE X-MEN WILL
EVEN CONSIDER
SURRENDERING TO
ONE SUCH AS
YOU.

I WAS
HOPEFUL THAT
WOULD BE YOUR
RESPONSE.

I SHALL
TAKE GREAT PLEASURE
IN SHREDDING THE FLESH
FROM YOUR BONES,
WINDRIDER.

THINK
AGAIN, DEATHBIRD.
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU
AND THE MASTER YOU
SERVE THAT MY
HUSBAND WAS LOST
TO ME.

GET UP,
HORSEMAN. SO
I CAN HAVE THE
SATISFACTION OF
POUNCEING YOU BACK
INTO THE GROUND
AGAIN.







RODNEY
AND MEGGAN
WERE OUR
FRIENDS...OUR
FAMILY! THE PAIN
YOU WILL KNOW
THIS DAY
IS AS NOTHING
COMPARED TO
THE SUFFERING
YOU ALREADY
CAUSED!



CALIBAN!
DON'T DO
THIS!

YOU'RE NOT LIKE
THIS...YOU'RE NOT A
MONSTER. YOU'RE A
GENTLE, CARING
PERSON WHO I HAVE
BEEN HONORED TO
CALL FRIEND. FOR
WHAT YOU ONCE
FELT FOR ME,
DON'T DO
THIS.



THE MORLOCKS WERE
NEAK! THEY WERE JUDGED
AND THEY FAILED! NOW
CALIBAN IS AMONG THE
STRONG AND THE NEAK
SHALL PERISH!



HE'S NOT GOING TO LISTEN
TO WORDS, KITTY. YOU HAVE
TO TALK TO HIM IN THE
ONLY LANGUAGE HE'LL
UNDERSTAND.



IT NEVER GETS
EASIER, DOES IT?



WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED THE X-MEN YOU WERE AN INNOCENT JEWISH GIRL, OUT OF THE SUBURBS OF CHICAGO AND BARELY INTO THE THROES OF ADOLESCENCE.

YOU SOMEHOW MANAGED TO LIVE THROUGH THOSE TURBULENT YEARS AND EMERGED A SEASONED, CONFIDENT ADULT.



YOU'VE WATCHED AS INJURED AND OVERMATCHED FRIENDS FIGHT BEYOND WHAT THEY SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF FIGHTING.



YOU'VE KNOWN LOVE—GOOD AND BAD—AND ACCEPTED BOTH AS A PASSAGE OF LIFE.



YOU'VE SEEN ONE-TIME ENEMIES BECOME YOUR ALLIES AND FORMER FRIENDS BECOME YOUR FOES.

YET ONE THING HAS REMAINED A CONSTANT.



THE X-MEN ARE A
FAMILY--A GROUP OF
OUTCASTS BROUGHT
TOGETHER IN THE
SINGULAR PURSUIT
OF ONE MAN'S DREAM--
THE DREAM OF PEACE.

THIS FAMILY HAS GROWN THROUGH THE
YEARS, BUT YET HAS NEVER CHANGED.

YOU MAY HATE THE LIFE...HATE THE PAIN...
BUT, LOOKING AROUND YOU, YOU KNOW
THAT THIS IS WHERE YOU TRULY BELONG.

--THAT WHEN IT IS FINALLY YOUR
TIME TO GO, THAT YOU WOULD
LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO
DIE EXACTLY AS YOU LIVED--



IT IS STILL A FAMILY THAT
WILL STAND AT ONE
ANOTHER'S SIDE WHEN IN
NEED--BE IT IN BATTLE OR
IN GRIEF.

--AS A HERO--

--AS AN X-MAN.



YER
GOOD AT THE
THREATS, BUS,
BUT TALKIN' AIN'T
ENOUGH
T'GET THE JOB
DONE---

YOU
GOTTA BE
THE BEST, EV-
ER! YOU AIN'T
NOWHERE
CLOSE!



PERHAPS
I'LL ALLOW
MY ACTIONS TO
SPEAK FOR ME
INSTEAD OF MERE
WORDS.



WHERE IS
YOUR BRIVADO NOW?
PERHAPS IF I FRY YOUR
BRAIN WE CAN SAVE THE
BODY TO BRUTALIZE AT
OUR LEISURE.



AH, THE
ICE MAN ENTERS
THE FRAY.

FOOL, NO
AMOUNT OF ICE
WILL HOLD ME
FOR LONG.



I
SHALL...
OR...



POUR IT ON, SUGAR, GIVE IT ALL YA GOT!

WE GOT HERE AS SOON AS WE COULD, LASSIE, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH O' A DIFFERENCE EXCALIBUR'S GOIN' T'MAKE IN THE LONG RUN.

THE HORSEMEN ALONE COULD GIVE US A RUN FOR OUR MONEY, BUT ADD THE SHEER NUMBER OF THE SHIRK WITH THAT AND I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR OUR ODDS O' WINNIN'.



NEVER- THELESS, BANSHIEE, YOUR TIMELY ARRIVAL IS MUCH APPRECIATED. ARE THERE ANY MORE REINFORCEMENTS IN TRANSIT?

SORRY, DARLIN', WE'RE IT.

HATE T'SOUND PESSIMISTIC, BUT WE MIGHT NEED TO THINK 'BOUT FIGHTIN' ANOTHER DAY.

A RETREAT? NEVER.



BANSHIEE?

IF THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE T'BE DOIN' ME SHARE THEN, WON'T IT?

THE MEASURE
OF A HERO IS
IN HIS DEEDS.

SEAN CASSIDY'S ACTIONS
SPEAK VOLUMES ABOUT
THE MAN.

OVER TIME HIS POWER
RETURNED, BUT HIS
LIMITS REMAINED.

ONCE, YEARS AGO, TO SAVE JAPAN
FROM EMINENT DESTRUCTION, HE
SURPASSED THE NATURAL LIMIT OF
HIS POWERS, NEARLY SACRIFICING
HIS OWN LIFE WITH THAT OF HIS
MUTANT WAIL.

FOR THE SECOND
TIME IN HIS LIFE,
SEAN CASSIDY
IGNORES THE PAIN
RISING IN HIS
THROAT AND
SURPASSES THAT
BOUNDARY YET
AGAIN.

HE CONTINUES
TO SCREAM UNTIL
THERE ARE NO
SHARER AIRCRAFT
LEFT TO DESTROY...

--AND
THEN--

--HE
FALLS.

BANSHEE,
YOU... YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE... YOUR
POWERS...

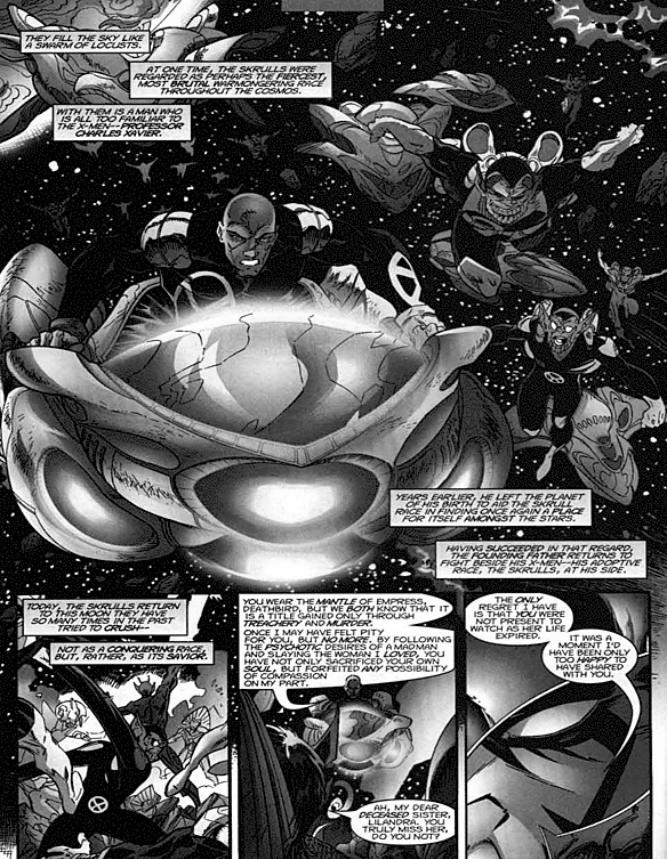
SMALL
PRICE TO PAY...
LOVE...

WE ALL
MUST MAKE
SACRIFICES...

SEAN!!!







THEY FILL THE SKY LIKE
A SWARM OF LOCUSTS.

AT ONE TIME, THE SKRULLS WERE
REGARDED AS PERHAPS THE FIERCEST
MOST BRUTAL WHACKING FORCE
THROUGHOUT THE COSMOS.

WITH THEM IS A MAN WHO
IS ALL TOO FAMILIAR TO
THE X-MEN—PROFESSOR
CHARLES XAVIER.

YEARS EARLIER, HE LEFT THE PLANET
OF HIS BIRTH TO AID THE SKRULL
RACE IN FINDING ONCE AGAIN A PLACE
FOR ITSELF AMONGST THE STARS.

HAVING SUCCEEDED IN THAT REGARD,
THE FOUNDING FATHER RETURNS TO
FIGHT BESIDE HIS X-MEN—HIS ADOPTIVE
RACE, THE SKRULLS, AT HIS SIDE.

TODAY, THE SKRULLS RETURN
TO THIS MOON THEY HAVE
SO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST
TRIED TO CRUSH—

NOT AS A CONQUERING RACE,
BUT, RATHER, AS ITS SAVIOR.

YOU WEAR THE MANTLE OF EMPRESS,
DEATHBIRD, BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT IT
IS A TITLE GAINED ONLY THROUGH
TREACHERY AND MURDER.

ONCE I MAY HAVE FELT PITY
FOR YOU, BUT NO MORE. BY FOLLOWING
THE PSYCHOTIC DESIRES OF A MADMAN
AND SLAYING THE WOMAN I LOVED, YOU
HAVE NOT ONLY SACRIFICED YOUR OWN
SOUL, BUT FORFEITED ANY POSSIBILITY
OF COMPASSION
ON MY PART.

AH, MY DEAR
DECEASED SISTER,
LILANDRA. YOU
TRULY MISS HER,
DO YOU NOT?

THE ONLY
REGRET I HAVE
IS THAT YOU WERE
NOT PRESENT TO
WATCH AS HER LIFE
EXPIRED.

IT WAS A
MOMENT I'D
HAVE BEEN ONLY
TOO HAPPY TO
HAVE SHARED
WITH YOU.



CHARLES XAVIER POSSESSES PERHAPS THE MOST POWERFUL MIND IN EXISTENCE. ALL HIS LIFE HE HAS FOUGHT AGAINST THE URGE TO USE IT TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT IN FEAR OF WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES MAY BRING.

ONCE BEFORE HE ALLOWED HIS EMOTIONS TO CONTROL HIS ACTIONS WHEN HE MIND-READ HIS GREATEST ENEMY AND OLDEST FRIEND, MAGNETO.

DEATHBIRD, YOU HAVE HURT ME MORE THAN I EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE--

HE SPOKE NEVER AGAIN AND HE HAS LIVED BY THAT PROMISE SINCE.

UNTIL NOW.

--PERHAPS IT'S TIME I GAVE SOME OF THAT HURT BACK TO YOU.

YOU USED THE FULLEST EXTENT OF YOUR POWER, X-MAN, AND IT STILL WASN'T ENOUGH TO FELL ONE OF US. EVEN NOW, WAR RECOVERS FROM YOUR ATTACK.

WE HORSEMEN HAVE BEEN CREATED TO SERVE AS THE HERALDS OF ARMAGEDDON--

SNIKT

--WE CANNOT BE... defeated...

DO TELL..

WELCOME BACK, CHUCK. GLAD YOU COULD MAKE TH' PARTY.



SHRAAM

SHI'AR WAR CRUISERS... HUNDREDS OF THEM. THIS ISN'T GOING WELL...

MASTERMIND, I NEED YOUR HELP.

OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME AND FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY. THIS WAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE.

AH... DECEITFUL AND VICIOUS... NO WONDER MY FATHER HATED YOU.

WARRIORS OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE! HEED MY WORDS CAREFULLY FOR I SHALL NOT AWAY YOU A SECOND TIME!

YOU KNOW AND I AM AND WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF. LEAVE THIS SYSTEM IMMEDIATELY AND RETURN TO YOUR OWN OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.



I HAVE
BEEN REBORN
AGAIN!



AJIEE! THE
PHOENIX! THE
EVIL ONE HAS
RETURNED!

ABANDON
MISSION! FORWARD
MY COMMAND TO ALL
PERSONNEL! RETREAT
TO SHI'AR SPACE! THE
HOMEWORLD MUST BE
PROTECTED AT ALL
COSTS!



THE SHI'AR...
THEY WITHDREW,
COMRADES.
THE ILLUSION HAS
SUCCEEDED WHERE
ALL OUR POWER
HAD NOT.



WITHOUT
THE SHI'AR FLEET
AND WITH TWO OF OUR
NUMBER IMPAIRED, WE
HAVE NO RESERVE
BUT TO
RETREAT.

BUT KNOW
THAT YOU HAVE
ONLY POSTPONED THE
INEVITABLE. X-MEN, WE
WILL RETURN AND
WHEN WE DO--





THERE WILL BE EXCESSIVE SUFFERING. THERE WILL BE DEATHS.

YET, I KNOW IN THE END, WE WILL PERSEVERE.

THE X-MEN HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RESILIENT AND I SEE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS TIME WILL BE ANY DIFFERENT.



"REMEMBER, MY FRIENDS, MORE THAN THE EARTH HANGS IN THE OUTCOME OF THE COMING WAR, BUT ITS FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS AS WELL.

"IT IS UP TO US AND OUR ABILITY TO DEFEND OUR HOMELAND THAT WILL DETERMINE IF THERE EVEN IS A FUTURE TO CONSIDER.



"WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT ALLOW A MADMAN'S DERANGED DOCTRINE TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE.



"I SWEAR ON THE GRAVES OF ALL THOSE I HOLD DEAR THAT THE X-MEN SHALL STAND UNYIELDING IN THE HOUR OF MAN'S GREATEST NEED--

"--AND EMERGE VICTORIOUS OR PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT."

THIS IS THE BOWERY,
THE LOWER EAST SIDE
OF MANHATTAN.

THE PART STILL WAITIN' FOR THE
INEVITABLE FLOOD OF YOUNG HIPSTERS
LOOKIN' FER CHEAP DIGS. BUT THAT
AIN'T WHAT I'M HERE FOR.

NAME'S
LOGAN...

"COURSE, I HAVE OTHER HANDLES
DEPENDIN' ON WHAT THE OCCASION
CALLS FOR.

MOST TIMES, I AIN'T
TOO NICE NO MATTER
WHAT YA CALL ME.

THE ATTITUDE COMES WITH THE
TERRITORY. BELIEVE IT OR NOT
I'VE GONE TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE
LIKES OF THE MULK AND MAGNETO.

SEE, WHEN YER A LOT SMALLER
THAN THE LOCAL BULLY YOU NEED
TO BE A LOT MEANER THAN THEM.
SURE, HAVIN' A MUTANT HEALING
FACTOR AND HEIGHTENED SENSES
HELPS A BIT... EVEN STILL, IT'S THE
MEAN THAT KEEPS ME KICKIN',
MOST TIMES.

**FULL
CIRCLE**

MATT NIXON
WRITER
TOBY CYPRESS
ARTIST
JOE ROSAS
COLORS
SHANNON & PT
LETTERER
JASON LIEBIG
EDITOR
BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



BUT MEAN AIN'T WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT TONIGHT. AN' THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. PRACTICIN' CHARITY IS IMPORTANT FOR A FELLA LIKE ME. I'VE DONE LOTS O' UGLY THINGS IN MY TIME...

CLICK CLICK
CLICK



TONIGHT,
PEOPLE ARE
HUNGRY...



...AND THE STREETS ARE EVEN COLDER THAN OL' SARGENTOY'S HEART THIS TIME O' YEAR.



ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS I FIND THE TIME TO MAKE UP A FEW SANDWICHES AND BREW UP SOME PIPIN' HOT TEA. IT AIN'T MUCH...



...WELL, I TAKE TA THE STREET HUNTIN' AN ENEMY BIGGER'N ALL THE BADDIES PUT TOGETHER. ADVERTY IS A NASTY MONSTER THAT MOST EVERYONE PRETENDS NOT TA SEE.



BUT IT'S RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF YOU IF YA TAKE THE BLINDERS OFF. I DEFINITELY DON'T NEED MY HEIGHTENED MUTANT SENSES TA FIND WHAT I'M LOOKIN' FOR.

YOU LIKE
TURKEY AND SWISS
SANDWICHES?



I SIT WIT 'EM FOR A BIT. MAKE A LITTLE SMALL TALK. CAREFUL NOT TA DAMAGE ALREADY WOUNDED PRIDE.

YEAH,
MAN. I LIKE
TURKEY AND SWISS
SANDWICHES...

I'VE GIVEN AWAY MOST OF WHAT I
BROUGHT WITH ME WHEN I PICK UP A
SCENT THAT'S WAY OUTTA PLACE.

SHE'S A BIRD OF A
DIFFERENT TYPE.
SMELLS OF THE
'BURBS AND...

FEAR...

SHE HAS A DESOLATE LOOK ON HER
FACE. SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE
AND SHE'S WEARIN' IT LIKE A BIG
RED FLAG.

YOU LOOK
LOST, MAY'AM.
CAN I POINT YOU
IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION?

NOT
UNTIL I
FIND
HIM.

DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...
SHE'S BEHAVIN' LIKE SHE'S IN SHOCK!

FIND MAO
DARLIN'?

OH-CHARLIE,
HE LEFT HIS
FAVORITE CAP,
TOO...

I'M
GUESSING
HERE... BUT
SOMEBODY RUN
AWAY FROM
HOME?

"NO, THAT'S WHAT THE POLICE SAID.
BUT CHARLIE ISN'T LIKE THAT. I-I
CAME HOME TO FIND A NOTE SAYING: 'I
WENT TO THE CITY TO SEE MY FRIEND.'"

AND THE POLICE SAID THEY
COULDN'T HELP UNTIL
HE WENT MISSING FOR
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!

"HE DOESN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS BACK IN QUEENS. LET
ALONE THE CITY. HE'S QUIET...ALWAYS ON THE COMPUTER.
SO I WENT LOOKING FOR HIM MYSELF. I'VE ASKED ANYONE
WHO WOULD LISTEN IF THEY HAD SEEN HIM."

I HAVE
A REALLY BAD
FEELING ABOUT
THIS...

...BUT A
MOTHER SHOULD
NEVER GIVE UP
HOPE.

I TAKE IN THE KID'S
SCENT. IT'S MEAN AT
BEST...NOT THAT IT
MATTERS.

I THINK
I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO
HELP.



CHARLIE?



B-BUT WHO ARE-- ANY ARE YOU--?



Y-YOU SEEM SO SURE. HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE? I SHOULD GO WITH YOU...



WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT THAT FROWN, MAYAM? HOW 'BOUT SOMETHING HOT?





THE TRAIL TAKES ME
ANY NORTH, HARLEM.

UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN HERE, YOU CAN'T
UNDERSTAND TH' SHEER SIZE OF THIS
CITY, AND AS A CONSEQUENCE SCENTS
ARE MUDDLED AND DULL.

TRACKIN' A BODY IN THE CLEAN AIR O' THE BUSH IS A PIECE O' CAKE,
KINDA LIKE FOLLOWIN' RUNWAY LIGHTS ON A CLEAR MOONLESS NIGHT,
BUT IN THIS CITY THERE'S ONLY A ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE THAT I
CAN MATCH UP THE SCENT ON TH' BOY'S CAP.

THO THINGS ARE
MAKIN' IT POSSIBLE FOR
ME TO PULL THIS OFF.

FIRST, WE GOT A CRISP
WIND BLOWIN' DOWN FROM
THE GREAT WHITE NORTH.

CARRIES THE
KID'S SCENT.
THAT'S LUCK.

AND
SECOND...

...I'M THE BEST THERE
IS AT WHAT I DO.

THAT'S JUST
THE WAY IT IS.



STRONG SMELL O' CHEEZIE PUFFS,
STALE PIZZA AND OILY HAIR. YOU'D BE
SURPRISED WHAT YA CAN TELL FROM
A PERSON'S SCENT. *SPECIALLY WHEN
THEY'RE AS FLUNKY AS THIS GUY UP HERE.

LOTS 'O TECH-NEENIE STUFF...
LOOKS MOSTLY LIKE JUNK.

"OH, THIS
IS GOING
SO NELL!"

"Y'KNOW,
PROFESSOR
GIBBON? YOU
JUST MIGHT BE
THE SMARTEST
MAN ALIVE!
WELL BEYOND
THE CUTTING
EDGE!"

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.
SHOOT, THIS GUY IS
TALKIN' TO HIMSELF AND
EVERYTHING!

LINGG!

SSHUNK





GUY'S QUICK FOR A
BEANPOLE. ALWAYS
THE WAY WITH THESE
WEIRDOS.



AND I NEVER SEEM TO LEARN...
BUT IT AIN'T ME WHO'S ABOUT
TO GIT A LESSON!



HOPE YA
GOT YERSELF
A SEWIN' KIT
HANDY, MISTER.
'CAUSE I'M GONNA
TEAR YA A
NEW--



CHUCK
AND I ARE
GOING TO PLAY
TOGETHER.
YOU FILTHY
BRUTE!

"HE IS THE ONE WHO MADE THE DECISION TO JOIN ME. CHUCK CAME DIRECTLY TO THE CITY TO BE WITH ME."



SO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING HIM FROM ME, YOU ARE MISTAKEN. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE WANTS TO BE WITH PROFESSOR GIBBONI?

RIGHT, BUT THAT'S WHY YOU GOT HIM ALL TIED UP! 'CAUSE HE WANTS TO BE WITH YOU!



THE BONDS ARE MERELY TEMPORARY. ONCE THE NEUROTONIC THAT I GAVE HIM KICKS IN HE WILL BE COMPLETELY AT EASE.



WE WILL TRANSCEND THE PHYSICAL WORLD TOGETHER! CYBERSPACE IS OUR SOON-TO-BE PLAYGROUND!



"I'LL TELL YOU WHAT? YOU CAN HAVE OUR BODIES AFTER WE LEAVE."



"WE HAVEN'T BE COMING BACK!"

